

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 CAB-02 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

FAA-00 NSC-05 SS-15 H-02 EURE-00 OES-03 ERDA-05 ARA-06

FEA-01 CIEP-01 IO-10 /092 W
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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5638

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1788

FOR EUR/WE-MR. BARBOUR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (DEN UYL, J.M.), NL

SUBJ: PM DEN UYL'S VISIT TO U.S.

REF: THE HAGUE 1752

1. DUTCH TV EVENING APRIL 8 CARRIED ITEM ON DEN UYL'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND DUTCH MORNING PRESS APRIL 9 RAN STORIES ON SUBJECT. TRANSLATION OF STORY IN VOLKSKRANT FOLLOWS.

2. "THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT FORD HAS INVITED PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL TO VISIT WASHINGTON AROUND MID-MAY. THE DATE FOR THE MEETING STILL MUST BE DECIDED ON DEFINITELY BUT IT SEEMS THAT DEN UYL WILL COMBINE HIS VISIT WITH A TRIP TO PARAMARIBO WHERE BETWEEN ELEVEN AND TWENTY-ONE MAY A SUMMIT CONCERANCE ON SURINAM INDEPENDENCE IS TO BE HELD. MINISTER VAN DER STOEL WILL PROBABLY ACCOMPANY HIM TO SEE PRESIDENT FORD.

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IT IS EXPECTED THAT FORD AMONG OTHER THINGS WILL WANT

TO TALK ABOUT THE STARFIGHTER REPLACEMENT, KLM RIGHTS AND THE NATO SUMMIT CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO CIRCLES IN THE HAGUE, DEN UYL WILL WANT TO HEAR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT FORD ON THE QUESTION OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE DUTCH PRIME MINISTER WILL CERTAINLY RENEW THE PLEAS MADE BY VREDELING AND VAN DER STOEL IN NATO ABOUT THE INTROCUCTION OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO MBFR. IN THIS CONNECTION, IS IS EXPECTED THAT DEN UYL AND FORD WILL ALSO WANT TO TALK ABOUT STRATEGY FOR DETENTE. DEN UYL WILL ALSO INFORM FORD ABOUT THE COMING INDEPENDENCE OF SURINAM. THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT ONLY INTERESTED IN THIS SUBJECT BECAUSE OF ITS INVESTMENT IN BAUXITE BUT ALSO IN GENERAL BECAUSE WASHINGTON DOES NOT WISH TO SEE POTENTIAL INSTABILITY IN LATIN AMERICA. AROUND MAY 15 THE NETHERLANDS MUST DECIDE ON THE REPLACEMENT OF THE F-104. FROM THE HAGUE IT SEEMS PROBABLY THAT DEN UYL WILL BE MEETING WITH FORD AT JUST THAT TIME.

KLM

ACCORDING TO EXPERTS THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A TIE BETWEEN THE AMERICAN JET FIGHTER AND THE FLIGHT SCHEDULES OF KLM. FOR SEVERAL WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE AMERICAN SIDE ON THE KLM QUESTION. THE LAST DEVELOPMENT WAS VAN DER STOEL'S ANSWER TO A LETTER FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER THREE WEEKS AGO IN WHICH HE PROPOSED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS BE RENEWED. THERE IS STILL NO REACTION. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES CONNECT THE LACK OF REACTION ON THE AMERICAN SIDE TO THE FACT THAT THE US DOES NOT WANT TO TAKE ANY HOSTILE ACTION AGAINST KLM AT THIS CRITICAL TIME FOR THE F16. IN ADDITION TO GENERAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS THE ENERGY CRISIS, DEN UYL AND FORD WILL CERTAINLY EXCHANGE THOUGHTS ON ATLANTIC RELATIONS WHICH FORD SEEKS TO REAFFIRM WITH HIS VISIT TO THE NATO COUNCIL AT THE END OF MAY. FORD FOR HIS PART WILL CERTAINLY WANT TO HEAR WHAT THE LARGEST GOVERNMENT PARTY IN HOLLAND, THE PVDA, FORESEES FOR NATO. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THROUGH ITS EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE RESULTS OF THE COMING LABOR PARTY CONGRESS." END OF STORY. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. DCM TELEPHONED MERCKELBACH IN PRIMIN DEN UYL'S OFFICE FIRST THING MORNING OF APRIL 9, EXPRESSED REGRET FOR LEAK, BUT ASSURED HIM THAT IT HAD NOT RPT NOT ORIGINATED WITH EMBASSY WHICH HAD BEEN TREATING SUBJECT OF VISIT ON A VERY CONFIDENTIAL, DISCREET BASIS. MERCKELBACH SAID PRIMIN WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT LEAK IN VIEW OF IMMINENT OPENING OF LABOR PARTY CONGRESS.

MERCKELBACH ATTRIBUTED LEAK TO NOS (GON TELEVISION ORGANIZATION) REPORTER WHO WAS SUPPOSEDLY TIPPED OFF BY NOS CORRESPONDENT IN US VAN DEN MIERENDONK. DCM SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE VAN DEN MIERENDONK COULD HAVE GOTTEN STORY FROM USG SOURCES FOR REASON GIVEN ABOVE. DCM ALSO RECALLED THAT MERCKELBACH HAD MENTIONED THAT PM HAD RAISED SUBJECT OF HIS VISIT AT LAST CABINET MEETING. THUS, AS OF APRIL 4, QUITE A FEW DUTCHMEN COULD BE PRESUMED TO KNOW ABOUT IT. MERCKELBACH AGREED WITH "NO COMMENT" LINE EMBASSY HAD BEEN TAKING WITH WIRE SERVICE INQUIRIES.

4. AFTER TALKING TO DEN UYL, MERCKELBACH CALLED BACK TO SAY THAT LATTER WISHED TO ADHERE TO "NO COMMENT" LINE UNTIL OFFICIAL COORDINATED ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE AS SCHEDULED ON APRIL 14. DCM SAID EMBASSY WOULD ASK WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES TO RESPECT HIS REQUEST. IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THE NETHERLANDS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON BE INSTRUCTED WITHOUT DELAY ON THIS POSITION.

5. AS A PRECAUTION EMBASSY ALSO TOUCHED BASE WITH FONOFF PRESS SPOKESMAN BREMAN TO INFORM HIM OF OUR "NO COMMENT" LINE. BREMAN SURMISED THAT LEAK HAD COME FROM STATE INFORMATION SERVICE IN PRIMIN'S OFFICE AND SAID THAT WHILE FONOFF WOULD NOT CONFIRM DEN UYL VISIT, IT WOULD SAY, IF ASKED, THAT IF PRIMIN WERE GOING TO VISIT HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY FONMIN VAN DER STOEL.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF DEN UYL'S SENSITIVITIES, WHICH WE BELIEVE ARE WELL FOUNDED, RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON TAKE A STRICT "NO COMMENT" LINE UNLESS OTHERWISE ADVISED BY EMBASSY OR NETHERLANDS EMBASSY IN CONFIDENTIAL

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WASHINGTON. LATTER WILL PRESUMABLY NOW GET INTO HIGH GEAR (IF IT HAS NOT DONE SO ALREADY) ON COORDINATED ISSUANCE OF APRIL 14 ANNOUNCEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT. GOULD

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